

WAR TIME MILITARY RECORDS ON COMFORT WOMEN
(Compilation of U.S./Allied/Dutch/Japanese Military Records)

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APPENDIX A: ATIS Report No. 120, “Amenities of the Japanese Armed Forces.”

APPENDIX B: ATIS Report No. 120 on Brothel Regulations.

A. INTRODUCTION

This compilation of war time military documents during and immediately after WWII provides unbiased primary source data related to the comfort women issue. It includes:

- U.S./Allied war time reports on interrogation of Japanese soldiers.
- U.S./Allied war time interrogation reports of comfort women/comfort station operators.
- Military reports of translations of captured documents.
- War crimes records related to comfort women.
- Translations of Japanese military documents, including translations of handwritten unit journals and regulations related to the issue.

These original documents provide detailed, objective evidence on the nature of the comfort women system. Rape and other war crimes are not related to the comfort women issue and was not a subject of this compilation

The originals of all documents are in the national archives of countries involved. Most copies are also accessible at the collection of the WAM Museum in Tokyo, Japan. Many documents related to war crimes trials in Indonesia are in Dutch but there are enough records in English and Japanese to provide sufficient documentation of events. No documents or records of war crimes trial by the Government of the Philippines were accessed and it is unknown whether any involve involuntary prostitutes. However, U.S. and Japanese military records concerning comfort women in the Philippines are included.

Many of the originals reports are lengthy and cover material not relevant to the comfort women issue. Excerpts and summaries are provided. Those needing assistance in obtaining copies of any cited material are free to contact the author for assistance.

This compilation is by no means complete, and research continues. No original documents in Korean archives were accessed. As these and other become available, they will be added to this compilation.

B. U.S./ALLIED MILITARY DOCUMENTS.

1. U.S. MILITARY COMMISSION ORDER NO. 11.

U.S. Military Commission Order No. 11 is the only war crimes record available on U.S. involvement in the punishment of involuntary prostitution by the Japanese. The individual charged was not in the Japanese military, not even a civilian employee of the military or government. He was a civilian resident living in Guam. Among other charges, he was found guilty by the Military Commission of inducing two local civilian females on Guam in Feb 42 to engage in prostitution under duress. The women were not physically forced or abducted. He was sentenced to hang for other charges, later reduced to a prison sentence. There are no records of any Japanese military personnel being involved in forced recruitment of women for prostitution by U.S. Forces either in Guam or any other area. This case is mentioned to prove that the Allied Forces at the end of WWII did consider involuntary prostitution as a war crime and punishable, and not ignored as claimed by some.

2..SUMMARY OF PRISONER OF WAR INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 49.

a. This report is widely known for providing a detailed record of comfort women. It was prepared by the United States Office of War Information, Psychological Warfare Team, which was attached to U.S. Army Forces, India-Burma Theater. The prisoners were 20 Korean Comfort Girls. Date of Capture: August 10, 1944. Place Interrogated: Ledo Stockade. Date Interrogated: Aug 20 – Sept 10, 1944. Date of Report: October 1, 1944. Originally classified “Secret,” declassified in 1973.

b. The report provides an objective description of comfort women and how the women were recruited by being given advance loans, of signing contracts, of being paid, of not being under guard and free to go shopping, of being allowed to refuse customers, of joining officers in recreational activities and social dinners, of receiving gifts from soldiers and even of proposals of marriage and actual marriages. There is no mention of abduction, rape, or brutality. It throws a completely different light on the issue.

c. The report mentions the girls grossing fifteen hundred yen a month, then turning 50 to 60% of to the “house master.” According to a Yale University research, a female textile worker in Japan in 1939 earned less than 20 yen a month. Data for 1944 is not available but netting 750 yen a month was hardly slave wages. In one year she would earn more than a life time in a textile factory. An advance loan of a few hundred yens was not a paltry sum at that time.

d. The report mentions the operators were two Japanese civilians. Their names and address are provided, obviously a husband and wife pair. While the names are Japanese names, their address is listed as present day Seoul, Korea, not Japan. At the time, many, if not most, Koreans used Japanese names and spoke fluent Japanese. The ages of the Korean comfort women listed one teenager who was 19 years of age, four 20, with the rest over 21, eight being 25 or older, the oldest 31.

e. Recruiting. The Japanese military was not directly involved in recruiting the women. This was done by civilian operators of comfort station or their agents. Some may have been brokers. Statements by some former comfort women of the presence of military personnel could be due to the standard attire for men in wartime Japan and Korea resembled a military uniform. The report states that according to the women, the exact nature of the work was not spelled out in recruiting, but it is doubtful if they or their parents had any illusions of the nature of work involved, especially with advance loans to parents and contracts of six months or one year in which to return the money, which would not be possible doing normal work. However, there is a Japanese military reports expressing concern with unscrupulous recruiters and the need to curb such activity.

f. Some direct quotes from the report follows:

“PREFACE:

“This report is based on the information obtained from the interrogation of twenty Korean ‘comfort girls’ and two Japanese civilians captured around the tenth of August, 1944, in the mopping up operations after the fall of Myitkyina in Burma.

“The report shows how the Japanese recruited these Korean ‘comfort girls’, the conditions under which they lived and worked, their relations with and reaction to the Japanese soldier, and their understanding of the military situation.

“A ‘comfort women’ is nothing more than a prostitute or professional camp follower attached to the Japanese Army for the benefits of the soldiers. The word ‘comfort girl’ is peculiar to the Japanese. Other reports show the ‘comfort girls’ have been found wherever it was necessary for the Japanese Army to fight. This report however deals only with the Korean ‘comfort girls recruited by the Japanese and attached to their Army in Burma. The Japanese are reported to have shipped some 702 of these girls to Burma in 1942.”

“RECRUITING:

*“Early in May of 1942 the Japanese agents arrived in Korea for purpose of enlisting Korean girls for ‘comfort service’ in newly conquered Japanese territories in Southeast Asia. **The nature of this ‘service’ was not specified** but it was **assumed** to be work connected with visiting the wounded in hospitals, rolling bandages, and generally making the soldiers happy. The inducement used by these agents was plenty of money, an **opportunity to pay off the family debts**, easy work, and the prospects of a new life in a new land – Singapore. On the basis of the false presentations many girls enlisted for overseas duty and were rewarded with an **advance of a few hundred yens**.*

*“The majority of the girls were ignorant and uneducated, although **a few had been connected with the ‘oldest profession on earth’ before.** The contract*

they signed bound them to Army regulations and to work for ‘house masters’ for a period of from six months to a year depending on the family debt for which they were advanced money.

“Approximately 800 of thee girls were recruited in this manner and they landed with the Japanese ‘house masters’ at Rangoon around August 20th, 1942. They came in groups of eight to twenty-two. From here they were distributed to various parts of Burma, usually to a fair sized town near Japanese Army camps....”

“PERSONALITY:

*“The interrogation show **the average Korean ‘comfort girl to be about twenty five years old**, uneducated, childish, whimsical, and selfish. She is not pretty either by Japanese or Caucasian standards....”*

“LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

*“In Myitkyina, the girls were usually quartered in a large two-story house (usually a school building) with a separate room for each girl. There each girl lived, slept, and transacted business. In Myitkyina their food was prepared by and a purchased from their ‘house master’ as they received no regular ration from the Japanese Army. They lived in near-luxury in Burma in comparison with other places. This was especially true of their second year in Burma. **They lived well because their food and material was not heavily rationed and they had plenty of money with which to purchase desired articles. They were able to buy cloth, shoes, cigarettes, and cosmetics to supplement the many gifts given them by soldiers who had received ‘comfort bags’ from home.***

“While in Burma they amused themselves by participating in sports events with both officers and men; and attended picnics, entertainments, and social dinners. They had a phonograph; and in the town they were allowed to go shopping.”

“PRICE SYSTEM:

“The conditions under which they transacted business were regulated by the Army, and in congested areas regulations were strictly enforced. The Army found it necessary in congested areas to install a system of prices, priorities, and schedules for the various units operating in a particular area....”

“SCHEDULES:

“The soldiers often complained about congestion in the houses. On many occasions they were not served and had to leave as the army was very strict about overstaying leave. In order to overcome this problem the Army set aside certain

days for certain units. Usually two men from the unit for the day were stationed at the house to identify the soldiers. A roving MP was also on hand to keep order. Following is the schedule used by....

*“Soldiers would come to the house, pay the price and get tickets of cardboard about two inches square with price on the left side and the name of the house on the other side. Each soldier’s identity or rank was then established after which he ‘took his turn in line. **The girls were allowed the prerogative of refusing a customer.** This was often done if the person were too drunk.”*

“PAY AND LIVING CCONDITIONS:

*“The ‘house master’ receive fifty to sixty per cent of the girls’ gross earning depending on how much of a debt each girl had incurred when she signed her contract. **This meant that in an average month a girl would gross about fifteen hundred yen. She turned over seven hundred fifty to the ‘master.’** Many ‘masters’ made life very difficult for the girls by charging them high prices for food and other articles.*

“In the later part of 1943 the Army issued orders that certain girls who had paid their debt could return home. Some of the girls were thus allowed to return to Korea.

“The interrogation further show that the health of these girls was good. They were well supplied with all types of contraceptives, and often soldiers would bring their own which had been supplied by the army. They were well trained in looking after both themselves and customers in the matter of hygiene. A regular Japanese Army doctor visited the house once a week and any girl found diseased was given treatment, secluded, and eventually sent to a hospital. This same procedure was carried on within the ranks of the Army itself, but it is interesting to note that a soldier did not lose pay during the period he was confined.”

“REACTIONS TO JAPANESE SOLDIERS:”

This section only mentions the women’s opinion about two Japanese commanders.

“SOLDIERS’ REACTIONS:

*“The average Japanese soldier is embarrassed about being seen in a ‘comfort house’ according to one of the girls who said, ‘When the place is packed he is apt to be ashamed if he has to wait in line for his turn.’ **However there were numerous instances of proposals of marriage and in certain cases marriages actually took place.***

“All the girls agree that the worst officers and men who came to see them were those who were drunk and leaving for the front the following day. But all likewise agreed that even though very drunk the Japanese soldier never discussed military matters of secrets with them....

“The soldiers would often express how much they enjoyed receiving magazines, letters and newspapers from home. They also mentioned the receipt of ‘comfort bags’ filled with canned goods, magazines, soap, handkerchiefs, toothbrush, miniature doll, lipstick, and wooden clogs. The lipstick and clogs were definitely feminine and girls couldn’t understand why the people at home were sending such articles. They speculated that the sender could only have had themselves or the ‘native girls’ in mind.”

“REACTION TO THE MILITARY SITUATION:”

This section concerns the scant information the girls had of the military situation.

“It was the consensus among the girls that Allied bombings were intense and frightening and because of them they spent most of their last days in foxholes. One or two even carried on work there. The comfort houses were bombed and several of the girls were wounded and killed.”

The final three sections of the report are **“RETREAT AND CAPTURE,”** **“PROPAGANDA,”** and **“REQUESTS.”** An Appendix provides the name, age, and address of the twenty women and the two operators.

- End of Report 49 -

3. SUMMARY OF 163d LANGUAGE DETACHMENT REPORT NO. 0223.

a. The 163d Language Detachment was attached to Headquarters I Corps, U.S. Army, in the Philippines. Report No. 163LD-1 0223 is titled, “Combined Enemy Preliminary Report,” and dated 21 May 1945. Classified Confidential, declassified 6/6/56.

b. This is an Interrogation Report of five Korean comfort women captured by U.S. Forces in Luzon, Philippines in May, 1945. Their ages are: 19, 22, 24, 28 and 28. Two pairs are sisters.

c. Portions of interest are quoted in italics. Parts of special interest are highlighted in bold letters.

- **“Nationality: Korean.**

Status : Prostitutes in employ of Jap Army.

Place of Capture: Vic of Dingalan Bay, Tayabas Prov, Luzon.

Date of Capture: 19 May 45”

- *“The families of all the women were extremely poor and in order to save their families the expense of caring for them, they were sold to a Geisha House in Korea. They were sent to Taichu City, Formosa (present Taichung, Taiwan) and placed in the employ of the Army. They returned to Korea and on 29 Apr 44 left with 62 other women of both Jap and Korean nationality for the Philippines. They were still in the employ of the Jap Army. Upon arrival in the Philippines they were split up into small groups and sent to various army camps. 10 women, including subject EAs (enemy aliens), were sent to Higuchi L of C unit near Clark Field where they stayed at a Geisha House run by Mr. Taniguchi. From here they were sent to Sector Hq, Clark Field. Sometime in October 1944 they were sent to South San Fernando and joined Nakamura L of C Unit. 10 Jan 45, they withdrew from South San Fernando and enroute (sic) met up with Col Suzuki and his force. Col Suzuki told them that if they were captured they would be a disgrace to Japan (the Japanese military considered being taken POW as a disgrace), therefore they had better tag along with him. They went to Ipo. During the march Army personnel would go on ahead leaving two or three soldiers with the women. One woman died enroute and two others were left in Ipo because of illness. Late Jan 43, left Ipo and arrived Iloilo sometime in Apr 45. **They saw many soldiers fall out and die from starvation enroute.** About two weeks ago Col Suzuki took approx 300 able-bodied men and proceeded towards Umiray. They thought men were armed with rifles. Men headed up towards the mountains and not along the coast. Two of the women went with the group but the five EA decided to go off and fend for themselves. They followed the coastline northward. 18 May 44 they saw an LCM off the coast firing up into the hills above them. They waded out into the water and waved their arms and shouted. The crew of the LCM picked them up and took them to Dingalong Bay.”*

4. OTHER INTERROGATION REPORTS.

a. ATIS Interrogation Report No. 60, dated 17 Apr 43.

(1) Subject is Japanese soldier rescued from the sea off New Guinea coast by US Navy Patrol Boat.

(2) Subject stated:

“There were approximately 20 brothels in RABAUL, KOKOPO area and the remainder were in the town. Inmates were all Japanese women”

(3). Subject made an interesting comment about attitude:

“PW did not believe ant-British feeling existed in Japan. In fact, foreigners in Japan had the sympathy of the Japanese because they could not return to their own countries

“He did not believe that natives of occupied territories should be treated as equals to the Japanese. Owing to the Rescript of the Emperor MEIJI, natives, although not on the same footing as the Japanese, were not made slaves and were well treated.”

b. ATIS Interrogation Report No. 63, dated 19 Apr 43.

(1). Subject is a Japanese soldier, corporal, captured by Australian troops.

(2). PW had heard that:

“...there were brothels in RABOUL and believed they were run by civilians.... The women in them were ‘played out’ Japanese.”

c. ATIS Interrogation Report No. 78, dated 15 May 43.

(1) Subject is a Japanese officer PW, 2/Lt, captured Trobriands, after ship sunk and he made it to shore.

(2) Subject *“persisted in his statement that Japan was treating natives of occupied countries as equals....”*

(3) PW stated that he had heard there were Naval brothels in RABOUL staffed by Japanese girls. These were professionals from Japan.

d. ATIS Interrogation Report No. 94. dated 15 Jun 43.

(1) Subject is a medical captain, captured after making it to shore, New Guinea. In addition to reference to brothels, he comments on the attitude of the Japanese army towards locals.

(2).”PW believed the natives of occupied countries should be and were being treated as equals. PW insisted that the Army did not run brothels but merely supervised those run by civilians under an arrangement whereby supervision began with the war and ended immediately after cessation of hostilities In no case were natives enslaved or restricted in any way. He had not read the Rescript of MEIJI (Emperor Meiji) regarding treatment of prisoners of war and natives, but thought it was being followed.”

e. ATIS Interrogation Report No. 104, dated 27 Jun 43.

(1) Subject is a Japanese Army Sgt, captured in lifeboat, Trobriand.

(2) *“Tojo had been forced to declare war when the Nomura and Kurusu missions failed. These Japanese representatives had tried to get the USA to sell materials but had been refused.... Foreigners all seemed to have the idea that Japan was a warlike country but the opposite was true. She is poor and could not exist unless England and US traded with her.... ‘*

(3) *“Although brothels were provided by the Army, there was only one woman to 2,000 troops, consequently only officers were accommodated.”*

f. ATIS Interrogation Report No. 577, sated 23 Jan 45.

(1). Subject is Japanese Army Air Force PFC, rescued from sea by US Navy near MOEMI. This is interesting in that unauthorized brothels operated by locals charged considerably more than authorized brothels.

(2) *“Girls at civilian houses were usually half caste Spanish-Filipinos and prices Yen 10-20. Those at Army controlled houses were Yen 2-3 with Japanese and Korean girls. Brothels in PI – Manila. Some were under Army jurisdiction. Others run by civilians were out of bounds, and MPs who tried to keep soldiers away, frequented these places themselves. Despite the differences in prices civilian houses were more popular, as they were less crowded.”*

5. ATIS RESEARCH REPORT NO. 120.

a. ATIS was the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. Report No. 120 is a Research Report Subject: “Amenities in the Japanese Armed Forces,” dated 15 November 1945. Research Report No. 120 provides information available to Allied authorities up to 31 March, 1945, on amenities furnished by the Japanese to their armed forces. More details on the report are provided in Appendix A. Interrogation of the comfort station operator of the comfort women mentioned in Interrogation Report No. 49 is covered in the “Burma” section. Translation of Japanese military regulations on brothels in Manila is presented in Chapter D and in detail in Appendix B of this study under Japanese Military Documents.

b. The report covers the following: canteen stores; amusements; news; and mal. Brothels are covered under “Amusements.”

-. *“The Japanese insure one form of amusement by locating brothels in forward areas. One prisoner of war stated that brothels are immediately established where there are any large number of troops. Majority of the women in Japanese brothels are Japanese, Korean, and Chinese. Although the Japanese apparently waste no time in establishing their brothels, it appears demand greatly exceeds the supply. This condition practically excludes the enlisted personnel, and only officers are able to take advantage of these places of business.*

*“There appears to be quite a bit of difference of opinion among prisoners of war as to who owns and controls the brothels. **The statement of a prisoner of war, who was a brothel owner in BURMA, and several lists of brothel regulations which have been captured in South West PACIFIC Area, indicate that brothels are privately owned but under military supervision.** Information available indicates that the venereal (disease) rate among Japanese troops in South West PACIFIC Area is exceedingly low.”*

b. Brothels of Japan’s Armed Force in SE Asia. Brothels regulations were quite detailed and the one for MANILA and elsewhere in Report No. 120 is provided at Appendix B.

(1) Burma. In the section on BURMA, the report provides and extract from an Interrogation Bulletin which covers the interrogation of the civilian brothel owner mentioned in Report No. 49, of 20 Korean comfort girls.

“Prisoner of War, his wife and sister-in-law had made some money as restaurant keepers in KEIJO (present day Seoul), KOREA, but their trade declining, they looked for an opportunity to make more money and applied to Army Headquarters in KEIJO for permission to take comfort girls from KOREA to BURMA....

“Prisoner of war purchased 22 Koran girls, paying their families from 300 to 1000 yen according to the personality, looks and age of the girls. These girls were from 19 to 31. They became the sole property of prisoner of war and the Army made no profits from them.... (Comment: At an average wage of 20 yen a month as a textile factory worker in Tokyo at the time, it would take the girls about ten years to return 1,000 yen if they spent half their wages for living expenses).

“Free passage tickets were provided by Army headquarters but prisoner of war paid for all meals during the voyage....”

“Every ‘comfort girl’ was employed on the following contract conditions. She received fifty percent of her own gross takings and was provided with free passage , free food and medical treatment. The passage and medical treatment were provided by the Army authorities, the food was purchased by the brothel owner with the assistance of the Army supply depots. The owner made other profits by selling clothing, necessities and luxuries to the girls at exorbitant charges. When a girl is able to repay the sum of money paid to her family, plus interest, she should be provided with a free return passage to KOREA, and then considered free....”

(2) f. The report mentions brothels in SUMATRA and the South West PACIFIC Area. One brothel in SUMATRA is mentioned. It had two native women and six Chinese women.

(3) In Section V. CONCLUSIONS of the report, the following remarks are made about brothels:

- *“The establishment of brothels under strict regulations is sanctioned by military authorities in any areas where there are large numbers of troops.”*

- *“Inmates of these brothels are regularly inspected for venereal disease.”*

6. COMMENTS ON U.S./ALLIED DOCUMENTS.

a. No mention is made of abduction or forced recruitment of comfort women by the Japanese military. The one case tried as a war crime in Guam involved a Japanese civilian who was not connected with the Japanese military or government.

b. While there are mentions of a few local and Chinese women in comfort stations in SE Asia, the majority are Korean and Japanese.

c. No documents on Thailand or Indo-China were available. Although Japanese troops were stationed in Thailand, it was and still is an independent kingdom. During WWII, it was an ally of Japan. Indo-China was under Vichy France, an ally of Japan, until the final stages of the war. After the fall of Vichy France, Indo-China was given independence by Japan. **A graduate student in Thailand, Ms. Patporn Phootong, researched Thai comfort women in 2008-2009 for her graduate thesis. She concluded that no Thai women were forcefully recruited** and that those who blame Japan do so out of inability to address problems within their own social structure. In contrast, recently a Korean college student who wrote a college thesis on comfort women was forced to retract it and apologize due to public pressure. A Korean professor who published a book titled, *“The Empire’s Comfort Women”* is being prosecuted in court. Of interest is that she has many supporters in Korea. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to research original source material in Korea.

C. DUTCH REPORTS.

1. Dutch reports consist mainly of Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service (NEFIS) Interrogation Reports. Many reports mention of the topic of prostitution. Most of the Interrogation Reports are of Indonesians and information provided are mostly hearsay type of knowledge. There were records of three cases where perpetrators of forced recruitment for prostitution were tried as war criminals. Unfortunately, many documents related to the trials are in Dutch and were not accessed but there are numerous documents in English. No Japanese records written during the war were available but there were many testimonies in Japanese after the war and during war crimes trials. .

2. DUTCH COMFORT WOMEN WAR CRIMES CASES.

a. The Semarang Incident.

Of the Dutch Reports on involuntary recruitment of women for comfort stations in Indonesia, the Semarang Incident is the most well known. Semarang is a city on the island of Java in present day Indonesia, which was a colony of the former Netherlands East Indies. The Japanese military occupied the Dutch colony in 1942 during WWII. Dutch nationals placed in confinement were an estimated 90,000 civilians and 40,000 military. Some Dutch women were involuntarily removed from internment camps to comfort stations. Of the total of an estimated 200 to 300 Dutchwomen in brothels, an estimated 65 are believed to have been involuntary. However, the only instance where involuntary Dutch women cases resulted in conviction in war crimes trials was the Semarang Incident. The original documents related to this case are in the Dutch archives and were not accessed. The following provides the best account from secondary sources.

In October, 1944, due to the worsening military situation, the internment camp at Surabaya was closed and inmates moved to other camps. In late February 1944, some Japanese soldiers appeared at Camp #4, which was guarded by local native police, and removed six Dutch women, reportedly for clerical work. This happened also at other camps. Some 35 women in all were selected, made to sign documents probably agreeing to become prostitutes, and placed in comfort stations. A few of the women were volunteers, others not. The following month, at the end of March, 1944, Camp #4 came under the direct military jurisdiction of the Japanese Army. The Japanese commander was notified by the inmates of the women being involuntarily taken away. He said he would look into it. A month later, in late April, 1944, Major Odamura from Japanese Army Hq in Tokyo arrived to inspect the camp and was reminded by the inmates of the women. He had no knowledge about the incident and promised action. He advised Hq Southern Army in Singapore and Japanese Army Hq in Tokyo to close the brothels. On May 10, the women were released. After this came to light and the women released, Gen Nozaki, Head of Cadet School, apologized to Gen Imamura, Commanding General of 16th Army. Those involved were punished by Japanese military authorities. After the war, all involved were charged with war crimes and tried by Dutch authorities.

The Japanese officer held responsible was Major Okada, who had taken this action to accommodate visiting military cadets because he was concerned with venereal disease among local prostitutes. He had cleared this with Hq 16th Army but according to the charges in his war crimes trial, the authorization from Hq 16th Army specified that, (1) The women voluntarily leave the detention camp, and (2) They voluntarily (free will) agree to work in a comfort station knowing it would be for prostitution. Although Major Okada had left the recruiting to others, he was charged with being derelict in not confirming free will of the women and that the women understood the nature of the work. The women at the trial claimed the paper they signed was in Japanese and that they did not know what they were signing. After the war, 13 individuals were tried for war crimes by Dutch authorities and 12 were convicted. Major Okada, who had initiated the action was found guilty, not for what he had done but for

not supervising the recruitment of the women, and sentenced to death. Others involved received sentences confining them from 2 to 20 years.

b. West Borneo Incident (5 daughters of Insurgents)

This case was tried by War Crimes court. It involved 5 girls who were the daughters of local insurgents who attacked Japanese forces. The girls were placed in brothels in retaliation.

c. West Borneo Incident of Forced Prostitution.

This case was tried by War Crimes court. A commander of a naval detachment issued orders prohibiting Japanese military personnel from having relationship with local women. Any women having and suspected of having relationship with the Japanese were forced into brothels. Included were women who were suspected of such relationship or held to account on trumped up charges. The women received 2/3 of the money paid by clients, 1/3 went for food.

3. NEFIS INTERROGATION REPORTS. There are many Netherlands Forces Intelligence Reports based on hearsay information by those questioned. Only those cases which seem credible are covered. Even then, information provided are for the most part based on hearsay and none are based on direct interrogation of the women involved or operators of comfort stations.

a. NEFIS Interrogation Reports on Prostitution.

(1) NEFIS Report, dated 27 Dec 44, "Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Report Nos. 450, 538, 553, 555, 580, 563, 585, 589 and 593.

"..., location of brothels in Batavia (West Java): Gang Chaulan housed only Japanese women. Behind ...in houses on ...European and Javanese women were seen. Informant is unable to say whether or not the women were forced into prostitution...."

(2) NEFIS Report, dated 6 Dec 44, "Compilation of Interrogation Reports Nos. 534, 552, 567, 568, 579, 586, 587, 588, and 592.

- "XIII. General. Prostitution: A brothel was located in... having as inmates a very large number of Indonesian girls and women, for the exclusive use of Japanese military personnel. They were carefully selected from what would appear to be a number of willing applicants. No girl or woman who had given birth of a child was eligible. Those selected received a premium of 300 guildens and an outfit of fine clothing of a desirable type. The procurer informed him informant) there was a fairly high turn over of inmates at the brothel, as immediately a girl developed VD she was summarily discharged and replaced."

(3) NEFIS Report, dated 6 Nov 44, Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Report Nos. 455-469.

- *“An informant who was in Malang (East Java) in Nov 43, states that many Eurasians, Menadonese and Javanese women from 17 to 30 years of age were taken from their homes and, after being medically examined, installed in brothels located in the Hotel ... and in European houses in Others were forced to work in restaurants. Those unfit to or unable to carry on were returned to the original internment camp or allowed to go home.”*

(4) NEFIS Report, dated 29 Oct 44, Compilation of NEFIS Interrogation Report Nos. 366-378, 404-407, and 410-417.

Interrogation of Indonesians. Prostitution: *“During ‘43 at Solo (Mid-Java) - A Javanese who lived in Mid-Java selected girls for prostitution for use by Japanese troops. During ‘43, at Solo (mid-Java) a Chinese was given a permit to use the Russche Hotel for prostitutes for Japanese officers. He selected girls from the village with the help of the assistant village chief offering them work for money. One informant from Amboebe (E Java) said village girls were selected for restaurants and for prostitution.”*

(5) NEFIS Report, dated 6 Nov 44, compilation of Interrogation Report Nos. 455-469.

Interrogation of Indonesians. Prostitution. *“Informant who was in E Java stated that in ‘43, many Eurasian, Menadonese and Javanese women from 17 to 30 from villages and internment camps were utilized as prostitutes in hotels and European houses in Samaanweg. Others worked in restaurants.”*

(6) NEFIS Report, dated 29 Dec 44, Compilation of Interrogation Report Nos. 450, 538, 553, 555, 580, 583, 585, 589-593.

Interrogation of Indonesians. Prostitution. Brothels at Octavia (W Java). Gang Chaulan housed only Japanese women. Eurasian and Javanese women were seen at another brothel. Informant could not say whether women were forced into prostitution.

(7) NEFIS Report, dated 10 Jan 45, Compilation of Report Nos. 818, 820-888.

Interrogation of Indonesians. Soerebaja (E Java). July 44. Informant stated most prostitutes were Javanese. Some Japanese women were seen.

(8) NEFIS Report, dated 27 Jun 45, Compilation of Interrogation Report Nos. 886, 887 and 888.

Interrogation of Indonesians. E Java. In Jul 44, informant saw five European women in a hotel on the Abon-abon. One of the hotel servants told informant the women were prostitutes for Japanese officers.

(9) NEFIS Report, dated 7 Feb 45, Compilation of Interrogation Nos. 997-1005.

Interrogation of Indonesians. Wasale Bay. One informant stated that in Jun 44 he had seen 100 Javanese, 90 Chinese, 30 Menonese and 30 Japanese women engaged in prostitution.

(10) NEFIS Interrogation Report No. 1244, dated 9 Mar 45.

Interrogation of Indonesian. Halmahera. Informant saw a number of Indonesian women quartered in a building. They were controlled by a Chinese woman.

(11) NEFIS Report, dated 5 May 45, compilation of Interrogation Report Nos. 1590-1630.

Interrogation of Indonesian. Prostitution. Ternate Island, Nov 44. Informant states shortly after occupation of Ternate Island, the Japanese installed a collection and distribution center for young women for the purpose of prostitution. Two large brothels were organized and women of various races.... Only single women were eligible.

(12) NEFIS Interrogation Report No. 751, dated 31 Dec 44.

Interrogation of Indonesian. Prostitution: Informant heard that 50 Japanese women were brought by ship from E Java for use of Japanese Navy personnel only.

(12) NEFIS Report, dated 23 Mar 45, Compilation of Reports Nos. 1235-1238.

Interrogation of Indonesian. Prostitution, Tarakan, NE Borneo. *"About 50 Japanese women were housed near a hospital at 'Ladang.'"*

(13) NEFIS Interrogation Report No. 1252, dated 10 May 45

Interrogation of Indonesian school teacher. Prostitution in N. Celebes. There were two houses in Prost, one for officer with 30 women, one for NCO and men with 50 women. Women were from various locales. They received monthly salaries, kept all the money given by clients. Clothing, etc, were provided. The women had to pass physical, regular check by physician. In event of disease, treated at

hospital then sent home. They were at liberty to leave brothels for fixed periods.

(14) NEFIS Report, dated 12 Feb 45, Compilation of Reports Nos. 1066, 1196-1253.

Interrogation of Indonesian. Ambon Island. Brothel. Women were locals and Eurasian women. Women appeared normal and showed no sign of distress.

(16) NEFIS Interrogation Report No. 422, dated 23 Oct 43.

Interrogation of Indonesian. Sumatra. Prostitution. At Medan, Officers have access to Japanese women brought from Japan. Others have access to Indonesian women.

4. COMMENTS ON INDONESIA.

Indonesia has the fourth largest population in the world and is the largest country in Asia after China and India. It consists of approximately 20,000 islands spanning 3,000 miles. During the Japanese occupation, different parts were under the control of the 25th Army, the 16th Army, and the Japanese Navy. The most well known use of involuntary Dutch women for prostitution is the Semarang case in Java. This case clarifies two main points. The first is that official Japanese military policy did not condone the use of involuntary women as comfort women. The second point is that, in spite of official policy and regulations, violations did take place. However, there are no reported cases of rape and violence against locals by individual soldiers. According to a Dutch government study, an estimated 65 of 200-300 Dutch women engaged in prostitution under the Japanese were involuntary. That means the majority were voluntary. The most well known is the Semarang case. The estimated total number of involuntary women recorded for Indonesia is less than a hundred. Had abduction and forced prostitution been Japanese military policy, the numbers would be in the thousands.

D. JAPANESE MILITARY DOCUMENTS.

1. RESEARCH REPORT NO. 120, dated 15 November 1945, contains a number of translated Japanese military regulations on brothels. The research report was by ATIS (Allied Translator and Interpreter Section), Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers.. Some points of interest are mentioned here. A more detailed translation of regulations is appended at APPENDIX B. Some items of interest are mentioned in the following.

a. Manila. Extract from a translation of a bound booklet titled, "Rules for Authorized Restaurants and Houses of Prostitution, issued in Feb 43, by Lt Col Onishi, Manila Direct Lines Squad.

(1) Under General Regulations:

- Para 3: *“If and when various managers meet with difficulties, the officer in charge of Manila sector may either close the business or temporarily suspend it. In each case, they will present a statement for recompense for any losses or for any other inconveniences.”*

(2) Under Part 2, Business Operations:

(a) Para 6: *“**Persons receiving permission to open business will thereupon** determine the number of personnel needed, and will submit three copies of their personnel list..., one copy of the personal histories of employees,....”*

(b) Para 7: *“Managers intending to change the personnel of their establishment must secure the permission of.... Hostesses, geishas and waitresses wishing to leave the establishment must submit a request.... When the hostesses, geisha and waitresses are to be replaced, a request for permission to do so must be submitted....”*

© Para 8: *“Managers intending to increase the number of hostesses, geisha and waitresses, maids and others will so inform.... **Permission is necessary before anyone joins the establishment.**”*

(d) Para 9: *“...managers who cannot maintain discipline will be removed.”*

(e) Para 10: *“**Hostesses, geishas, waitresses, maids may, as a general rule, may be rehired at the expiration of their contract.**” “Those wishing to continue their employment will so notify....” When the medical authorities consider it suitable to discontinue the services of anyone for reasons of health, they will notify.... The latter will facilitate the return home of such persons.”*

(f) Para 16: *“Half of the income of hostesses will be allocated to the managers.”*

(g) Para 19: *“Expenses of food, light, charcoal and bedding for hostesses (geishas and waitresses) will be the responsibility of the managers.”*

(h) Para 21: *“**As far as possible, managers will encourage hostesses (geishas and waitresses) to save money.**”*

(i) Para 30: *“Hostesses (prostitutes and waitresses)...are forbidden to have intercourse beyond the premise of the house of relaxation. They must have the permission of ...to attend parties for soldiers and civilians.”*

(j) Para 34: *“Entry to or permission to use the facilities of the house of relaxation may be refused to the following persons:*

- a. Intoxicated person.*
- b. Persons carrying liquor.*
- c. Persons who may exert bad influence.”*

(3) Under Part Six – Regulations for Special Clubs.

- Para 11. *“The officer in charge of Manila Sector for Communication Duties, will, as a general rule, not permit the employment of minors as geisha or waitresses. In certain circumstances, however, minors may be employed as maids.”*

b. .Manila Air Depot. Translation of bound mimeographed and handwritten regulations on the use of its brothel. Dates of all files are from Aug 44 to Oct 44. The file on brothel regulation contains the following:

(1) Para 4b: *“There must be no act of violence or drunkenness, nor any unreasonable demands made of the house employees.”*

(2) Para 5: *“Anyone violating the above rule will thereafter be denied entrance to the house.”*

c. Shanghai. Translation in ATIS Report #120 on regulations governing special brothels in the Shanghai area.

(1) Under regulations governing the use of brothels, are the following:

(a). Para 2. *“Those who commit violence..., those who annoy others and are dangerous, are strictly forbidden to use this brothel.”*

(b) Para 11. *“The prostitutes will possess licenses....” The license has the name of the prostitute, brothel, and has a statement signed by the Japanese Sector Commander and states: “This is to verify the above person is permitted to conduct business.”*

© Para 14: *“Unlicensed prostitutes are strictly prohibited from plying their trade.”*

(2) Under regulations governing the operation of special brothel are the following:

(a) Para 2: ***“If a person working in a brothel conducts herself improperly or acts in a manner contrary to regulations, she will be suspended or dismissed from the business.”***

(b) Para 8: ***“The prostitute and the operator will share equally the proceeds of the work done by the prostitute.”***

d. Tacloban. Translation of bound mimeographed file titled, “Tacloban Brothel Regulations, undated, issued by Matsunaga Force, unit unknown.

(1) Under regulations setting provisions for the operation of brothels is the following:

(a) Para 2: ***“Places called brothels in these regulations are special brothels operated with Filipino women (licensed prostitutes).”***

(2) Under rules for those making use of brothels are the following.

(a) Para 7b: ***“Those who are under the influence of liquor and those who are disorderly are prohibited from entering the brothels.”***

(b) Para 7d: ***“There will not be any act of violence or coercion either against the women in the brothels or against operators of the brothels.”***

© Para 7e: ***“Payment will be made in advance in war notes.”***

e. Baruen. Translation of bound, handwritten, mimeographed document titled, “Brothel Regulations,” dated Aug 44.

- Para 7: ***“Those making use of the brothel must strictly obey the following provisions.***

(a) ***“Maintaining their generosity as military men and heeding the preservation of military secrets.***

(b) ***“They must not make demands on those working in the brothel other than as regulated, and must not be drunk or disorderly.”***

f. Rabaul. Translation of miscellaneous items concerning naval brothel in Rabaul, undated. Naval brothels are referred to as “Special Warehouses” in the report.

(1) Para 6: ***“Hostesses will refuse pleasure to those who....”***

(2) Para 8a: *“The uniform of petty officers and sailors when entering and leaving the special warehouses will be **dress uniform**”*

(3) Para 9: *“**Violation of any of the above regulations by the hostess will result in the withdrawal of their right to practice.**”*

2. JAPANESE GOVERNMENT/MILITARY REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS.

a. JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL REPORTS ON STATUS OF COUNTRYMEN AND BUSINESSES IN CHINESE CITIES.

(1) Jiujiang, Central China. Extracts from Reports on Status of Countrymen and Businesses by Consul General to Foreign Minister of Japan.

(a) Jiujiang. Consulate Report No. 561, dated 11/8/38.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	15
Japanese Operators	42 men, 25 women, 1 child
Japanese Comfort Women	107
Total Japanese Businesses	84
Total Japanese	357

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	9
Korean Operators	26 men, 8 women, 3 children
Korean Comfort Women	143
Total Korean Businesses	17
Total Koreans	198

(b) Jiujiang. Consulate Report No. 56, Dated 2/20/39.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	8
Japanese Operators	23 men, 7 women, 1 child
Japanese Comfort Women	54
Total Japanese Businesses	131
Total Japanese	480

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	7
Korean Operators	13 men, 7 women

Korean Comfort Women	67
Total Korean Businesses	19
Total Koreans	118

© Jiujiang. Consulate Report No. 62, dated 3//6/39.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	9
Japanese operators	26 men, 9 women, 2 children
Japanese comfort women	76
Total Japanese businesses	159
Total Japanese	586

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	10
Korean operators	16 men, 10 women, 4 children
Korean comfort women	133
Total Korean Businesses	24
Total Koreans	202

(d) Jiujiang. Consulate Report No. 101, dated 4/15/39.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	9
Japanese Operators	35 men, 14 women, 2 child
Japanese Comfort Women	93
Total Japanese Business	165
Total Japanese	683

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Stations	1
Korean Operators	20 men, 11 women, 4 children
Korean Comfort Women	95
Total Korean Businesses	20
Total Koreans	204

(e) Jiujiang, Consulate Report No. 122, dated 5/4/39.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	11
Japanese Operators	38 men, 26 women, 2 children

Japanese Comfort Women	125
Total Japanese Businesses	182
Total Japanese	835

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	11
Korean Operators	23 men, 14 women, 2 children
Korean Comfort Women	104
Total Korean Businesses	26
Total Koreans	203

(f) Jiujiang. Consulate Report No., 146, sated 6/1/39.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	10
Japanese Operators	37 men, 28 women 1 child
Japanese Comfort Women	125
Total Japanese Businesses	176
Total Japanese	837

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	11
Korean Operators	20 men, 4 women, 2 children
Korean Comfort Women	99
Total Korean Businesses	26
Total Koreans	183

(g) Jiujiang. Consulate Report No. 216, dated 8/7/39

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	8
Japanese Operators	27 men, 2 children
Japanese Comfort Women	90
Total Japanese Businesses	179
Total Japanese	783

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	5
Korean Operators	15 men, 6 women
Korean Comfort Women	68
Total Korean Businesses	28

Total Koreans 164

(h) Jiujiang. Consulate Report No. 255, dated 9/9/39.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	7
Japanese Operators	20 men, 4 women
Japanese Comfort Women	98
Total Japanese Businesses	193
Total Japanese	803

Korean Operated Businesses:

Special Comfort Station	5
Korean Operators	11 men, 4 women, 3 children
Korean Comfort Women	50
Total Korean Businesses	16
Total Koreans	124

(2) Nanchang, Central China. Consulate Report No. 217, dated August 9, 1939.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Japanese Comfort Station	3
Japanese Operators	5 men, 3 women
Japanese Comfort Women	8
Total Japanese Businesses	84
Total Japanese	224
Korean Operated Businesses	31
Total Koreans	200

Korean Operated Businesses:

Korean Comfort Station	8
Korean Operators	19 men, 9 women
Korean Comfort Women	94

(3) Chiaohu, Central China

(a) Consulate Report No 77, dated April 4, 1939.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Japanese Comfort Station	4
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Japanese Operators	12
Japanese Comfort Women	50
Total Japanese Businesses	194
Total Japanese	448

Korean Operated Businesses:

Korean Comfort Station	2
Korean Operators	5
Korean Comfort Women	26
Total Korean Businesses	21
Total Koreans	91

(b) Consulate Report No. 145, dated July 4, 1939

Japanese Operated Businesses:

Japanese Comfort Station	4
Operators/Japanese Comfort Women	11 men, 46 women
Total Japanese Businesses	354
Total Japanese	848

Korean Operated Businesses

Korean Comfort Station	2
Korean Operator/Comfort Women	2 men/16 women
Total Korean Businesses	27
Total Koreans	80

(c) Consulate Report No. 170, dated August 2, 1939.

Japanese Operated Businesses:

	Japanese Comfort Stations	4
	Japanese Operators and	
	Japanese Comfort Women	10 M, 31 W, 2 children
??	Total Japanese Businesses	382
	Total Japanese	685

Korean Operated Businesses:

Korean Comfort Station	2
Korean Operators/comfort women	2 men, 30 women, 1 child
Total Korean Businesses	39
Total Koreans (Incl comfort women)	96

(4) Comments on Foreign Affairs Department Documents.

(a) The reports are on the status of Japanese countrymen in Chinese cities. Countrymen are listed as Japanese, Koreans and Taiwanese. No others are listed. This means the Japanese regarded Koreans and Taiwanese, not as foreigners, but countrymen.

(b) Koreans were engaged in a myriad of businesses in addition to operating special comfort stations. These comfort stations are not listed separately or otherwise annotated to indicate they were anything special or other than just another one of the businesses. There is no implication they were operated by the military or by military employees. At the time, prostitution was legal and operating a brothel was not considered an illegal activity. The types of business operated by Koreans, in addition to comfort stations, include the following: photo shops, retail stores, restaurants, tofu shops, doctors, transportation business, trading companies, watch shops, medicine stores, barbers, and hotels.

(c) Korean operators of special comfort stations in many cases had women and children, in other words, families. This is evidence that they were not single men who were part of the Japanese Army. The same applied to Japanese operated comfort stations.

(d) In all reports, special comfort stations operated by Japanese had Japanese comfort women, and those operated by Koreans had Korean comfort women. There is not a single report that lists any Korean comfort women in a Japanese operated comfort station.

b. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY DIRECTIVE TO NORTHERN CHINA AREA ARMY AND CENTRAL CHINA AREA ARMY, CONCERNING RECRUITMENT OF COMFORT WOMEN, dated March 4, 1938.

The report is a directive to concerned military commands that unscrupulous recruiters must be weeded out and conduct which brings discredit on the honor and reputation of the Army must stop. This report has been cited by some historians as concrete evidence of military involvement in the recruitment of comfort women. While that may be the case, involvement in what way? Nowhere is there any evidence on guidance or directives to the military on procedures or type of contracts to be used in the recruitment of comfort women. In view of the meticulous details into which the Japanese put in writing, detailed recruiting procedures and sample contract forms, amounts of money allowed to be paid in advance, etc, would exist if recruitment was by the military.

c. JAPANESE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY DIRECTIVE No. 1955, dated Sep 14, 1940, Concerning Incidents in China Theater and the Necessity for Education and Guidance of Troops. This reports covers lessons learned and the need to preserve military discipline. While there is nothing specific about the recruitment of

women for comfort stations, this is hardly the type of Directive one would expect from the Department of Army of Japan, which has been accused of raping and looting throughout Asia which would have even shock Genghis Khan. The Directive is lengthy and stresses the importance of educating the troops and minimizing incidents. Some excerpts follow:

- *“Special Characteristics of Crimes and Misbehavior in China.*

“With increase of troops and in contrast to many distinguished acts of valor, there has been many acts of looting, rape, arson and killing of prisoners, acts which are contrary to the true nature of our Imperial Army and makes difficult out task of establishing permanent peace in the Far East, and makes common citizens our enemies... This fact must be pounded into every last soldier.... Special attention must be paid to conduct of soldiers immediately after a battle when troops are worked up.... The ignorance of military laws concerning misconduct...we must avoid ending up having to punish a soldier who has been decorated for valor because he was ignorant of the law.... .”

- There is mention of the special nature of violations in this war, the special attention that must be paid on the conduct of soldiers immediately after a battle when troops are worked up, the necessity for educating troops before battle concerning military laws against misconduct, and the special efforts that must be made to provide amenities and the benefits of providing brothels with comfort women as a preventive to troops taking vengeance against the local population.

d. JAPANESE NORTHERN CHINA AREA ARMY HEADQUARTER DIRECTIVE, dated July 14, 1938, titled. “Strict enforcement of soldiers’ compliance with regulations concerning conduct towards inhabitants.” Contained therein is a section devoted to the establishment of comfort facilities.

e. NORTH CHINA. 3d Mountain Artillery Regiment Regulation commanded by Colonel Takamori, dated October 11, 1940.

The portion concerning **rules for comfort station operated by Chinese operators with Chinese women** is translated below in italics. The comment on the number of women being on a ratio of 1 for 100 soldiers is interesting

“Regulations concerning business operations by Chinese comfort station operators within our area of responsibility. The purpose is to moderate the killer instinct of soldiers and maintain military order and discipline....

“For locals to qualify, the following must be met:

- 1. Proper identification, travel authorization....*
- 2. Must be a registered resident.*
- 3. **Number of women will be on a ratio of 1 for 100 soldiers.***
- 4. **Employees must have proper identification.***
- 5. **All employees must submit resumes.***
- 6. All employees will have health inspection once a month, comfort women once every 10 days.*
- 7. Report revenue for month.”*

Rules for soldiers:

- 1. Permits will be used.*
- 2. Turn over money and permit to comfort station.*
- 3. No food or drinks allowed.*
- 4. **No act of violence against operator or women.***
- 5. No borrowing or lending of money to operator or women.*
- 6. Time of use. This is broken down by rank. Also rate. No tips.*

f. NORTH CHINA. Independent Siege Heavy Artillery, 2d Battalion Internal Regulations, dated Mar 16, 1938. Major Mamba commanding. Areas of interest related to use of comfort station is presented. There is no definite data on whether one operator had comfort women of different nationalities or whether the price structure was meant to apply to the different (Japanese, Korean or Chinese) comfort stations. The price differences most likely results from the inability of Chinese prostitutes to communicate with Japanese soldiers, not from physical issues.

- Different days of the week are designated for different units.

- *Time is limited to one hour per person. Rate as follows:*

<i>Chinese</i>	<i>1 yen</i>
<i>Korean</i>	<i>1 yen 50 sen</i>
<i>Japanese</i>	<i>2 yen</i>

Charge for officers and warrant officers will be twice that listed.

- *Caution:*

- No drinking in the facility.*
- Strict compliance with time limit and payment.*
- No violence against operators.*

- Operators.
 - Must not service Chinese men. .
 - Must not provide drinks.
 - Must not do business elsewhere.
 - Must possess health permit.

g. NORTH CHINA. Japanese 14th Division, Medical Company Journal for November, 1938. The part related to Charge for Alcoholic Beverages and Prostitutes is interesting. Negotiating with local merchants for prices is not an expected conduct of an Army raping and looting across Asia. Of note is that the negotiated rate for a Chinese prostitute in town is comparable with that of a comfort station with Japanese comfort women.

“The following was decided after meeting with operators of local drinking and brothels:

- Sake	One “go”	50 sen	
- Beer	One bottle	80 sen	
- Prostitutes	One hour	Soldier	2 yen
		NCO	3 yen
		Above Warrant Officer	4 yen

- Sale of alcoholic beverages in establishment providing prostitutes is strictly prohibited.”

h. CHINA. “Regulations Concerning Operation of Special Comfort Stations” of Morikawa Unit (Regiment), dated Nov 13, 1939. .

The regulation explains regulation applied to security area of the regiment, reason for authorizing special comfort stations, the two towns in which they are to be authorized. Parts of the regulation of interest follows:

Paragraph 7. ***“All expenses needed for the special comfort station will be borne by the operator.”*** This clearly establishes that the comfort stations were not operated by nor funded by the military.

Subparagraphs stipulate authorized users, hour of operation, requirement for posting price, collecting of price and “authorization tickets” issued by the regiment from soldiers, and weekly medical inspection requirements of the women. It also includes expected conduct of soldiers specifying ***“No drunks, no food or drinks allowed, no fighting, no violence against the women allowed.”*** The rates were: Officers, one hour, 3 yen; NCO, 30 minutes, 1 yen 30 sen; Soldiers, 30 minutes, 1 yen.

i. Comment on Other Japanese Military Records. Numerous unit journals are available which have comments related to comfort women but are generally the same with dates and time schedules, price, and prohibited conduct.

E. CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The records indicate the Japanese military authorized and regulated brothels referred to as special comfort stations as an amenity for its troops with the objective of minimizing incidents of rape and violence against the local populace and to curb venereal disease. Comfort stations were, as the word indicates, a place of rest and relaxation for troops. They provided amenities other than prostitutes. Those providing prostitutes were referred to by the Japanese as special comfort stations, although in many cases the word “special” is omitted.

Special comfort station operators were civilians and the women received about half the proceeds. Korean and Japanese women were recruited by the operators or their agents with advanced loans, usually to parents, and under a one year contract. The nature of arrangement with local prostitutes in other areas are not known but the records mention some Chinese women in Burma who had been recruited in China under similar contracts as the Japanese and Korean prostitutes. In the Philippines, the records state that women in local brothels authorized for use by Japanese troops would have to be registered prostitutes only. The military had no direct involvement in the recruitment of the women. The military arranged for transportation and the women were free to return home upon repaying their advance loan and termination of their contract. Monthly reports submitted by local Japanese consul generals in various Chinese cities on numbers of Japanese subjects (Japanese/Korean/Taiwanese) and businesses in the cities identify comfort station operators with Korean comfort women as Korean. For those cities for which records are available, no Japanese operated comfort station is reported with Korean women.

U.S./Allied military records and Japanese records clearly identify the women as “prostitutes.” While prostitutes accompanying soldiers in war are not uncommon, the detailed conditions under which brothels were required to comply with in order to conduct business under the Japanese military is rather unique. This has to do with concern for the health of soldiers and is typical of the Japanese in their meticulous attention to detail. The U.S. Army does not prohibit fraternization and tends to “officially” avoid direct involvement with brothels but do control it by allowing its usage or denying it by designating “off limits” areas. The French and had their camp followers of Algerian women. The Russian Army did not need brothels, it just took what it wanted. While the rape of Berlin is fairly well known, not many outside Japan know of the rape of Japanese women in Manchuria after the Japanese surrender in WWII.

The word “regulated” has caused some misunderstanding since it implies the regulated person is under the direct control of the regulator. Comfort station regulations were conditions under which those desiring to do business with the Japanese military as operators or as prostitutes had to comply with to be allowed to conduct business. The

prostitutes were not “prisoners” nor were operators employees of the military. The wording in the military documents makes that point clear. Japanese military regulations concerning the operation of special comfort stations gave special attention to the health of both the women and the soldiers, hygiene, sanitation and conduct of soldiers. There are a number of detailed regulations at various levels of command in this compilation. They are somewhat repetitive but were included for a purpose, to show that such regulations were not unique to one Army command but existed throughout the Japanese military. Although a Department of the Army level directive on detailed requirements could not be found, they all seem to be similar, whether in China, the Philippines, Burma or the Southwest Pacific. What is obvious from the Japanese records is that the women were prostitutes. They were not prisoners or slaves.

The fact that the Japanese military did not sanction the use of involuntary women as comfort women is evident from the case of the Dutch women in Indonesia where Japanese Army regulations were violated and involuntary women were made to serve in comfort stations. In that case, referred to as the Semarang incident, those involved were punished by Japanese military authorities and then after the war they were tried as war crimes by Dutch authorities. It is interesting that the officer who had secured permission from the local Japanese command to use volunteer Dutch women as comfort women was found guilty by Dutch authorities, not for what he did but for what he did not do, which was not exercising proper supervision to ensure the women were volunteers. He was sentenced to death. In his defense, it should be mentioned that those who recruited the women had all of them sign comfort woman contracts. A Japanese military inspector, upon being informed by a Dutch prison camp internee that the women were not volunteers reported this to Tokyo and the women were released and perpetrators punished. Other than the Semarang case and a few others in Indonesia, there were no records of war crimes trials involving comfort women other than the few cases in Indonesia.

The total number of comfort women could not be determined. One Japanese military document in North China where Japanese/Korean operated comfort stations were not available stipulated that the number of Chinese operated comfort houses allowed to operate within that Japanese military organization’s area of responsibility would be on the basis of one woman per assigned strength of 100 soldiers. While the number 100/1 might seem excessive, in most available documents on comfort station operations, troop unit visitations were allowed only on designated days, normally limited to one day, sometimes two, during the week. Even though the ratio was 100/1, daily visitation number per woman would a small percentage of that ratio. As for China, using a Japanese troop strength of less than one and a half million and assuming comfort women were available everywhere, using a ratio of 1/100 would place the total number of comfort women (Japanese, Korean and Chinese) for the Japanese army in China at less than 14,000, a number far less than the astronomical 400,000 Chinese comfort women claimed by China

One Japanese PW in the SE Pacific area stated there were only about one woman for 2,000 soldiers and only officers were served. As for numbers, with respect to SE Asia, one report mentions the transportation of Korean and Japanese comfort women to Burma

in 1942. It is doubtful many were transported overseas after 1942. By 1943, the tide of war had changed and Japan was on the defensive. Available transport ships were insufficient to re-supply troops. Under those circumstances, it is doubtful whether transporting prostitutes enjoyed a very high priority. One interrogation report mentioned comfort women being evacuated from Rabaul due to air raids. In other words, women were being removed from dangerous areas. At war's end, there were still many comfort women in overseas areas. Japan has been accused of abandoning the women to their fate and in some areas of falsifying records by listing the women as nurses and other government employees to see that they were repatriated with the troops. On Timor, the comfort station resumed business after the surrender at the women's request and provided service to Australian troops until they (the women) were eventually sent home. This information was obtained from an American sergeant attached to Australian troops.

The "teishintai" system, which Koreans claim was used to recruit involuntary women as comfort women was not discussed. It was the system used during WWII in Japan and Korea to recruit unmarried, unemployed women for factory work. The system had nothing to do with comfort women. Japan was fighting for survival and had other more pressing priorities.

Recently, the Korean government once again agreed with Japan to put this matter to rest. From an American viewpoint, this is highly welcomed since we have military commitments to both South Korea and Japan. However, the issue is an emotional one with Koreans and putting it to rest will be difficult. The Japanese do not think like other Asians and consider matters from a legalistic viewpoint, much like we do. Koreans view matters from a much broader Eastern perspective. For example, on Taiwan we were told not to stick around if our taxi was involved in a traffic accident because by Chinese reasoning, it was our fault for the taxi being there. Using that logic, whether comfort women were voluntary, forced by their parents because of extreme poverty or abducted by Japanese soldiers makes no difference because the ultimate responsibility rests with Japan, not the women or their parents. If there were no Japanese Army, no comfort women, period.

Leaving that for lawyers and social psychologists to explain, Americans erecting comfort women statues in their cities may not realize that whatever the proclaimed purpose of these statues, it not only generates hate against Japan but also against Americans of Japanese ancestry here in the U.S. This was borne out by libelous, hate comments about Japanese Americans in a high school newsletter on their website. It accused Japanese Americans of kidnapping Korean women for Japan's comfort stations. This was while the city was debating the erection of a comfort woman statue. Most Americans of this generation are not anti-Japanese, but the comfort women issue had completely changed some Americans. Although the student body included a large number of Japanese Americans children, the school board claimed the contents of its newsletter were protected as freedom of speech and refused to remove the slanderous article. In America today, a slanderous and libelous high school newsletter intended to generate hate against fellow American students is defended by the school board as protected by freedom of speech? It was only after a Japanese American marine veteran of the Korean War had a

lawyer threaten legal action did the school finally remove the offending article on advice of their counsel. The school board never admitted faulty judgment nor did it apologize. What is happening to our society? Why are Americans joining China and Korea and poisoning the minds of American children and promoting hate against the Japan, our most powerful and reliable friend in the Far East, if not the world?

Whenever a comfort women statue is put up in a U.S. city, the Japanese feel a deep sense of betrayal and disappointment, not because the Japanese are reluctant to face up to realities about past history but because the allegations are untrue. How could their trusted friend and ally, America, be joining those insulting and promoting hate against Japan? We should pause and think what our reactions would be if Japanese cities started erecting monuments with blatant lies about America or teaching malicious lies about America in their schools. It could have a very serious impact on the future direction of both countries.

Some claim the comfort women issue is politically driven with the objective of isolating Japan. While I have no proof of that, it is no secret that China wants the U.S. out of Asia. Severing the military alliance between the U.S. and Japan would be a very serious strategic setback for both America and Japan. Japan would be forced to seek alliances elsewhere. One theory is that Japan and Korea would become satellites of China. More likely, Japan would go nuclear and create an alliance of Russia, India and SE Asian nations or some such.

Japan accepted full responsibility for its war crimes during WWII, offered up its entire leadership and population for war crimes trials, and made full reparations to all nations involved. The War Crimes Tribunals spent seven years investigating and trying the Japanese for war crimes. All WWII issues were settled in 1952 between Japan and its former enemies. Since Korea was not an involved party in the peace negotiations, Japan made a separate treaty with South Korea in 1965 settling all issues. Subsequently, the Japanese people, with Japanese government support, raised additional funds for former comfort women of Korean and of other nationalities. Successive prime ministers of Japan have expressed remorse and apology for the suffering experienced by Korean comfort women. I doubt if there will be any more apologies.

Since WWII, no country in the world, aside from the U.S., has done as much for developing nations around the world. Yet, condemnation of Japan for WWII issues by China and Korea continues, with even the United Nations joining in. Hopefully, this compilation of original documents will assist in understanding what actually took place. This is not to deny there were many cases of raping, looting, and other crimes against civilians by Japanese troops during WWII. Those were war crimes which were tried as war crimes and guilty parties punished. This compilation is not about those issues nor is it an attempt to downplay what took place. This is about exposing the truth about the comfort women issue.

While difficult to prove a negative, with hundreds of thousands of Koreans in Japan's armed forces and the majority of policemen in Korea being Koreans, had

abductions of Korean women actually taken place, there would be thousands of sworn testimonials by former soldiers, policemen, parents, and witnesses. There is exactly zero. The Dutch trials in Indonesia and the one trial by the U.S. of a Japanese civilian for pressuring a couple of local women into prostitution in Guam are proof that Allied Forces considered the use of involuntary women for prostitution as a war crime. No war crime trials of comfort women operators other than the few cases in Indonesia have been uncovered thus far.

Hopefully, this compilation of military records will prove useful in providing an objective view of the issue and provide an understanding of the true nature of the comfort women system. We should not be joining China and Korea and insulting our most reliable and powerful friend in Asia when the Middle East, Africa and Europe is in turmoil, China is rattling its saber, and an unpredictable North Korea could explode or implode at any moment. We tend to take Japan for granted. During the 60's, opposition to renewal of the U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Treaty almost brought down the Japanese government. Recent expansion of the treaty to include Japan's military assistance to U.S. Forces in contingencies involving neighboring countries met considerable resistance. The U.S.-Japan Alliance is vital to the security of both the United States and Japan. It is not an iron-clad alliance because the U.S. and Japan are democracies and the people will make the ultimate choices which direction their countries go. Many Japanese, including some college professors, are anti-government leftists. Their statements are given high credibility by Americans, especially historians, and it has greatly influenced the American public and members of congress. As mentioned earlier, the issue was successful in poisoning the attitude of the school board and students of a California high school. It is evident that Japan has lost the information war on the comfort women issue. Since Japanese explanations do not seem to have any credibility, it is up to concerned Americans to educate the American public on the true nature of this issue. This issue is like a cancer and unless this anti-Japan movement is recognized for what it is, it could have a very negative impact on the future of America and the free world.

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